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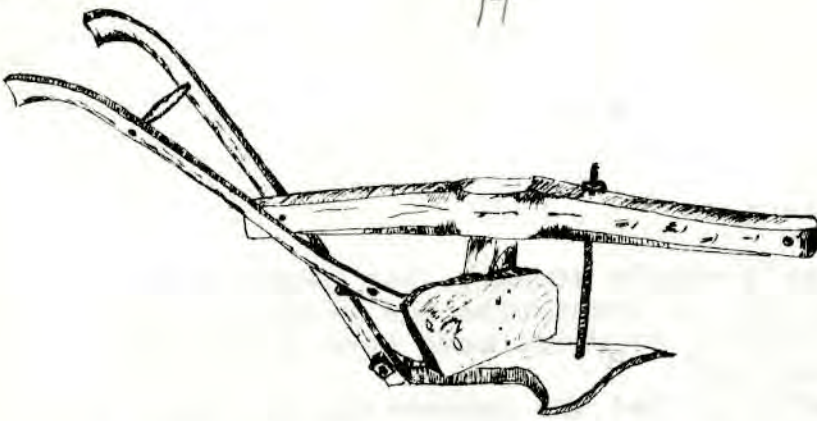
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Folk Studies

Society

Newsletter



Vol. 2, No. 5

Western Kentucky University

May, 1975

NEWS FROM WESTERN

Guest Lecturers

Dr. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Professor of Folklore and Yiddish Studies at both the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University, met with faculty and students from April 6-8. On Monday, April 7, she lectured to a university-wide audience on "Folk Humor and Ethnic Identity." The lecture was sponsored by the Committee for Strengthening International Dimensions and the Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies.

From April 14-17, Dr. David Hufford, medical folklorist at the University of Pennsylvania, visited our campus. He lectured on April 16 to a university-wide audience on "Traditions of Nocturnal Demonic Assault." He also attended the Applied Folklore class and later spoke to the graduate students in Folk Studies.

The Kentucky Folklore Society met in conjunction with the Kentucky Education Association in Louisville on April 18, 1975. At this meeting, Camilla A. Collins was elected President of the Society, and graduate student Carol Parker (also from Western) was elected Vice-President.

The department had its spring picnic on Saturday, April 26 at Ken and Mary Clarke's home.

On March 19 the graduate students met to revise the Folk Studies Society Constitution. This newly-revised constitution calls for elections (to be held this coming fall) for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and undergraduate representative. It is hoped that with the help of these officers that the Society will become a viable group within the discipline.

In May, Camilla A. Collins will be the guest lecturer on a weekend retreat for the staff of Upward Bound at Murray State University. She will talk on "Folklore: A Method of Cross-Cultural Comparison."

Two days of lecture-demonstration on traditional Nigerian dyeing and weaving were held on campus on April 24 and 25. This event was sponsored by the Art Department and the Committee for Strengthening International Dimensions.

Folklore and Folklife Archive News

Linda White, a Folk Studies graduate student, has been hired by the Cumberland Gap National Park to transcribe the Hensley Settlement Oral History Tapes (copies of which have been deposited in our Folklore and Folklife Archive).

Patricia A. MacLeish recently joined the university library staff as a social sciences librarian. She attended graduate school in American Folklife at Cooperstown and works half-time in the Western Kentucky Folklore and Folklife Archive and half-time at the Kentucky Museum.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Two of the department's former students, Hank Willett and Dave Lyne, presented papers at the Virginia Folklore Society meeting on April 12 at Ferrum College in Ferrum, Virginia. Hank's paper was entitled, "The Preacher and His Sermon: A Case Study of the Tradition of the Chant Style Sermon in Virginia." Dave's paper dealt with "The Jargon of Fox Hunting."

Two other graduate students in the department have been awarded research grants by Western Kentucky University. Roger Beatty will study the effects of cultural change on Chester Cornett, a traditional Kentucky craftsman; and Mike Stoner will do fieldwork on narratives associated with traditional Irish fiddle tunes.

Steve Poyser will begin work on his Ph.D. in Folklore at Indiana University this fall.

COMING EVENTS

On Monday, May 19 at 9:30 CST, Kentucky Educational Television will present a program, "Kentucky Regional Folksong," featuring graduate student Pege Kohn, Dr. Jim Wayne Miller, Ralph Estes, and Kay Harbison.

Clarion State College will hold a folklore workshop from August 4 to 22. The program will introduce participants to various aspects of folk traditions, including folk architecture, costumes, designs, oral traditions, music, speech, and lore. For information and application forms write to: Folklore Workshop, Anth-Becht Hall, Clarion State College, Clarion, PA 16214.

The Catholic University of America will hold a field school in cooperation with the Lake-of-the-Woods Museum in Kenora, Ontario, Canada. The program, while focusing on Indian, Metis, and Euro-Canadian folk studies, will also include research design, field techniques, native language workshops, field analysis, report writing, and practical application of research findings to small museum needs.

The field school runs from June 11 to August 9 and is open to graduate students in the social sciences. For information contact: L. E. Kauffman, Dept. of Anthropology, Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. 20064.

The Center for Southern Folklore is preparing an index of films and videotapes on American Folklore. Major categories of the index include, music, tales, religion, and arts and crafts. Anyone with information on materials which should be included in the index is asked to send the name of the film or videotape, filmmaker, distributor, description, length, gauge, year of publication, and rental and purchase prices to: Folklore Film and Videotape Index, Center for Southern Folklore, 3756 Mimosa Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. 38111.

The University of Virginia, in cooperation with the National Folk Festival Association, is sponsoring a three-week seminar entitled, "Folklore in America," from June 16 to July 5 at Blandy Farm, Virginia. Various topics to be considered include narrative, music, song, dance, games, religion, proverbs, riddles; folk arts and crafts; library and field methodology in folklore research; museums and archives; and the revival and/or preservation of crafts. For more information contact: Prof. Charles L. Perdue, Jr., Room 115, Wilson Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Folklore Forum would like to have a corresponding editor from among our students to act as liason between the Forum and the department for the coming year. If you are interested in this position, see Cam Collins for more information.

FOLKLORE FIELDWORK POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Smithsonian Institution is accepting applications for five-month fieldwork positions in multi-state areas of the United States. The work, which will run from July 1 to November 30, will involve a field survey of potential participants for the Bicentennial Festival. Resumes should be sent by May 15 to: Charles Camp, Regional Research Coordinator, Smithsonian Institution, Division of Performing Arts, 2100 L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, D. C. 20560.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As out-going editor of the Newsletter, I would like to congratulate Ruby Rufty as my successor to the position. I'm sure that she will do a very capable job as editor, and I implore the incoming and returning graduate students to help her in any way possible. I would like to thank the faculty, staff, and those

students who contributed their time and effort to the Newsletter during my tenure as editor.

Steve Poyser

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